No-Knock Law

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The House voted to repeal a controversial no-knock law which allows federal agents to search residences in some instances without identifying themselves.

The measure was sent to the Senate Tuesday on a voice vote.

The 1970 law was designed to help apprehend drug offenders. It allows federal judges to issue warrants authorizing Justice Department agents to break into residences unannounced for searches in cases where the property being sought might be destroyed or the agents would be in danger if they knocked.

In calling for repeal of the law earlier this year, a House committee said Justice Department agents, "in their eagerness to crush illicit drug trafficking, have mistakenly broken into the homes and apartments of dozens of innocent families, terrorizing the occupants and heavily damaging property."